

# WEEKLY VIEWS

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2009

Commissioner Buss visited the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility this week to tour the grounds and congratulate the staff and resident population for the successful transition and move from the Plainfield location.

For the holiday season, Rockville Correctional Facility staff sponsored 52 children from the four Parke County elementary schools. The facility coordinated with the schools to identify the needs and wishes of each child. Individual staff members sponsored children, and there were also activities at the facility to assist in the raising of funds.

During the holidays, Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility was very active with festivities. Madison Presbyterian Church hosted a Christmas party for the best behaved unit. MJCF also received generous monetary donations from the Christ Episcopal Church and Tea Creek Baptist Church, which allowed the opportunity to facilitate Christmas parties for the remaining two general population units. The students received stockings on Christmas Day that contained items donated from Madison Correctional Facility, and recreation staff held Bingo games with prizes for the students. In addition, Hanover Baptist Church collected and donated items from our wish list.

Indiana State Prison's fiscal staff presented the Stepping Stones Women's Shelter with two Nintendo Wii game consoles and a television. The funds were raised by bake sales and donations made by the offender American Legion and Jaycees organizations.

For the 12<sup>th</sup> year, Christmas morning at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility included Bishop Gerald A. Gettlefinger, who presided over mass for offenders and staff, followed by a question/answer session.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility recently held a Holiday Pageant. Facility staff and selected students were in attendance. The Boy Scout Troop, middle school class, and offender choir performed skits and sang holiday carols.

CIF's Therapeutic Community, GRIP, had a talent show where 40 offenders participated. The program involved a variety of acts, such as a skit that acted out the story of TC and the story of AA/NA, vocal numbers, and a guitar solo. The winning performance was a musical number followed by a skit that celebrated recovery.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility recently held a blood drive and collected 16 units of blood. The facility partnered with the Indiana Blood Center that assists more than 60 hospitals in Indiana.

Camp Summit Boot Camp staff and selected students participated in various holiday activities designed to assist the less fortunate during this holiday season. Volunteer activities included stocking Salvation Army Food Bank shelves in Michigan City, caroling at six nursing/assisted living homes in LaPorte and Michigan City, and participating in Adopt-A-Family, where staff and students presented gifts to needy local families selected by Father Frank Endres of the St. Mary of the Angels Church in LaPorte. The gifts were purchased with donations from staff and students at Camp Summit, and the students alone donated over \$411.

CIF held a Native American Sweat and Wounded Knee remembrance the day after Christmas in the chapel.

In conjunction with Pendleton Correctional Facility's annual Tree of Warmth project, 48 children's knit hat and glove sets donated by staff were presented to the Salvation Army in Anderson.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility's Healthcare Services passed the Indiana State Pharmacy audit with a 100% score.

Two members of the Westville Correctional Facility Canine Unit assisted the LaPorte County Sheriff's Department in the search for a missing teenager. When the girl disappeared and search efforts began, the facility stepped up to show its community support by providing staff and canines to the search.

Offenders assigned to Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears operation refurbished 41 bicycles during December. A total of 453 bikes were reconditioned in 2009.

CIF delivered refreshments to the officers assigned to work on Christmas, and gift cards were drawn for all staff.



"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity, and its first chapter is New Year's Day." ~ Edith Lovejoy Pierce